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Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

DATE: July 10, 2002

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

NAME: Examiner Brenda Murphy

FIRM: US Patent and Trademark Office

PHONE: 703.308.2664

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CLIENT/MATTER: 70011940.0007

FROM: Jennifer H. Hammond

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED, INCLUDING THIS SHEET: 4

MESSAGE:

Attached are Substitute Paragraphs to supplement our Response to Office Action filed on June 6, 2002.

Original will NOT be mailed

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Substitute Paragraphs

B1

Sensors (not shown) on the label scanner 42 are used to detect the leading edge of the label 30. Based upon the position of the leading edge of the label 30, the system adjusts the speed of the label web 28 by controlling the step motor that drives the label dispensing mechanism 22.

Substitute Paragraphs (con't)

As discussed above and illustrated in Figures 2-6, the label transport and tamping mechanism 24 interfaces with the label dispensing mechanism 22 to receive the labels 30 from the label web 28. The label transport 24 receives the labels 30 from the edge surface 39 of the peel bar 40. The label transport and tamping mechanism 24 is driven by a step motor, controlled by a microprocessor and operates as the master of the labeler 20. The label transport and tamping mechanism 24 comprises several rotating vacuum belts around a roller 38. The belts are evenly spaced apart with tamper blades 48 positioned between the belts for removing the labels 30 from the belts. Within the label transport 24 is a vacuum belt for applying vacuum force through the belt. The vacuum belts include a plurality of holes through which a vacuum force is applied.

Substitute Paragraphs (con't)

For example, as previously discussed, this invention can be used in a variety of labeling applications by modifying the type of sensors 60 used in connection with the labeling machine 20. Likewise, in the present invention the sensors 60 are mounted to the labeler 20 or positioned one row preceding the rows being labeled. The sensors 60 may, however, be positioned more than one row ahead of the labeler 20, making the status byte string longer. Furthermore, the number of sensors 60 used in the present invention will correspond to the number of articles 10 per row. Depending on the intelligence and memory capacity of each machine 20, the maximum amount of sensors 60 that can be used may vary and will be dictated by each particular labeling machine 20. Finally, the present invention teaches that when no label 30 is dispensed, the label transport 24 first moves the distance of the label 30 and then moves to create a space between the labels 30 – a two-step process. The labeler 20 could alternatively be programmed such that if a label 30 is not dispensed, the labeler 20 will move the distance of the label 30 and the space between the label 30 in one movement, rather than maintaining a constant speed for the dispensing of the label 30 then accelerating to create the space between the labels 30.

Atty. Docket: 70011940.0007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFIC.

In re Patent Application of		
Inventor:	JAMES R. HARTE	Group Art: 1734
Serial No.:	09/553,837	Examiner: Cheryl Hawkins
Filed:	April 21, 2000	
Title:	EMPTY PACKAGE DETECTOR FOR LABELING APPARATUS	

Box Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir or Madam:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed December 6, 2001, setting a response period expiring on March 6, 2002, applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of time until June 6, 2002, and encloses the requisite fee herewith. Applicant responds to the Official Action as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 7, line 10, after "Sensors" please delete "(now" and insert --(not--.

At page 8, line 1, before "evenly" please delete "being" and insert --are--.

At page 13, line 10, before "articles" please delete "the" and insert --of--.